MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Hostage Crisis — The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) announced that it has deferred executing its four hostages "for the time being" in response to requests from the hostages, their families, Lebanese "patriotic organizations," and the Indian Government, AFP reported. The statement was made in a note received by a Western news agency 5 minutes before the midnight deadline previously set by the IJLP. The document noted "certain positive points" in remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, calling for "explanations on this point as soon as possible."

Peres had nevertheless stressed that Israel will not accept the kidnappers' demands, according to Jerusalem radio, which reported further remarks by Peres in which he stated that Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's offer does not require any reply right now, warning that there are no guarantees that Birri can secure the release of the U.S. hostages. However, statements by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicated that Israel is willing to negotiate the release of Israeli captives in Lebanon who cannot be freed by military action, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. Rabin stressed that he is unwilling to ignore the fate of these men, who are not American civilians who refused to leave Beirut, but are soldiers who did not choose to be in Lebanon. In a related development, officers of the South Lebanese Army (SLA) announced that the SLA will consider an appeal to release detainees from its prison in Al-Khiyam, according to IDF radio. However, they said the SLA does not expect to receive such an appeal. Israeli political sources warned that Israel will find it hard to acquiesce to demands for the release of "terrorists" because of the "public storm" over previous exchange deals. This view was contained in a Jerusalem television report which noted that the United States and Israel held contacts on the hostage crisis 9 February.

Camps War — Nabih Birri's talks with Hizballah officials in Damascus have resulted in an agreement providing for Amal to take over Hizballah positions in Maghdushah, Beirut radio reported, noting that Birri was optimistic and this will help break the deadlock in negotiations on the camps war. However, the radio noted that Amal held Fatah responsible for a car bomb explosion which killed 15 people and wounded 55 in the southern suburb of the capital. In another development, Moroccan King Hassan II sent a message to Birri and to President Amin al-Jumayyil announcing that he is prepared to send a plane to Beirut to drop food supplies to the Palestinian camps, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

No Iraqi air raids were reported in the 8 and 9 February Iraqi communiques, which were broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iranian artillery attacks on Al-Sulaymaniyah and Basra 9 February reportedly killed 7 people and wounded 24.

An AFP report on Iraqi General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal's visit to Paris said it seems certain that he is shopping for arms and ammunition.

Iran

The Supreme Judicial Council issued a circular authorizing a partial amnesty on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Tehran radio reported. An official of the Amnesty Board noted that "counterrevolutionary groups, members of the misguided sect and spies" may be eligible for release.

DRA

Thirty people were killed when an AN-26 passenger plane was downed by "enemy fire" shortly after takeoff from Khowst airport, Kabul radio reported.

PDRY-USSR

CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev met with YSP General Secretary 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is leading a party and state delegation on an official friendly visit to the USSR, TASS reported.

Libya-Chad

Speaking at a press conference in Damascus, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud warned that Libya cannot "stand silent" in view of the "imperialist scheme" against Libya through Western interference in Chad, Tripoli television reported. As for battlefront action, a communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio accused Libya of conducting air raids on Fada, Wour, and Zouar 8-9 February.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 027 *10 February 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

'Enemy Fire' Downs AN-26 Killing 30 Passengers ..... C 1
Prisoners Released Under Amnesty Decree ..... C 1
Khamene'i Meeting With Afghan Rebels Protested ..... C 1
Iran Said Undermining Reconciliation ..... C 1
Pakistan's Charges of Air Violations Groundless ..... C 2
Karachi: Mujahidin Hit Soviet-Kabul Air Base ..... C 2
Launch Several Attacks, Kill 20 *[Karachi]* ..... C 2
'Extremist Elements' Injure 5 in Herat City ..... C 2
Explode Bomb at Shrine ..... C 2

INDIA

Canadian Foreign Minister Calls on Gandhi ..... E 1
DRA's Wakil Meets Gandhi; Holds News Conference ..... E 1
Gandhi Reiterates Stand on Gurkhaland Issue ..... E 1
Troop Withdrawal From Pakistan Border Begins ..... E 1
Akal Takht Chief Urged To Clarify Stand on Unity ..... E 2
Appeal 'Turned Down' ..... E 2
'No Danger' to Barnala Ministry ..... E 2
Barnala 'Has Not Resigned' ..... E 2
Opposed to Akal Takht Confrontation ..... E 3
More Attacks in Punjab; Akali Youth Wing Dissolved ..... E 3
'Notorious Terrorist' Killed in Punjab 8 Feb ..... E 3
9 Feb 'Terrorist' Incidents Kill 5 ..... E 3
2 'Shot Dead' 10 Feb ..... E 3

PAKISTAN

Junejo Details Indian Troop 'Concentration' ..... F 1
Says 'Agreement' Rules Out War ..... F 1
Briefs Cabinet on Border Agreement ..... F 1
Joint Trade Committee With Bangladesh Meets ..... F 1
Press Note Issued on 6 Feb Karachi Violence ..... F 1
Press Note Issued on Student Violence ..... F 2
Press Note Issued on Bus Attacks ..... F 2
3 Killed, Several Injured in Peshawar Explosion ..... F 2
28 Hurt in 2 Bomb Blasts in Quetta Hotels ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

LANKA PUWATH Details Latest Offensive in North ..... G 1
'Communique' Issued to Persons Returning ..... G 1
Ultralight Aircraft Banned, To Be Shot Down ..... G 1
LANKA PUWATH Reports 'Terrorist' Incidents ..... G 2

IRAN

Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit ..... I 1

Welcomed by Velayati ..... I 1
Exchanges Views With Velayati ..... I 1
Conveys Message to Khamene'i ..... I 1
Meets Hasemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi ..... I 2
More on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meeting ..... I 2
Departs; Visit Assessed ..... I 3
Ceremony Marks Air Force Personnel Anniversary ..... I 3
Khamene'i Delivers Address 8 Feb ..... I 3
Air Force Commander Speaks ..... I 5
9 Feb Ceremony Held Praising Air Force, Martyrs ..... I 6
Majlis Speaker on U.S.-USSR Fear of Islamic Revolution ..... I 6
Mediation Efforts Between U.S., Tehran Fruitless ..... I 7
Partial Amnesty Announced for Revolution Anniversary ..... I 7
Sudanese Minister Cited on Egyptian POWs Release *[AFP]* ..... I 8
'Imminent Release' Denied ..... I 8
Receipt of DRA Protest on Interference Denied ..... I 8
IRNA Questions Iraqi Minister's Visit to France ..... I 8
Opposition 'Open Letter' Criticizes Leaders, War *[Paris LE MONDE 8-9 Feb]* ..... I 8
UN 'Legal Stand' on Iraqi Aggression Urged ..... I 9
Joint Operations With Iraqi Kurds Reported ..... I 9
Communiques Update Recent Combat Operations ..... I 10
No 2,741 ..... I 10
No 2,742 ..... I 10

'Enemy Fire' Downs AN-26 Killing 30 Passengers

LD091637 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] An AN-26 airplane was hit by enemy fire when it took off from Khowst Airport today at 1130. As a result, the aircraft's engine caught fire and its pilot was wounded. The aircraft then lost control and crashed, martyring 30 passengers, including women, children, and elderly people, and six crew members.

Prisoners Released Under Amnesty Decree

LD071846 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Following a DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium decree on a general amnesty, eligible prisoners were released from the Pol-e Charkhi central prison today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the doors of the prison were opened around 1000 today for the prisoners. The released prisoners expressed their appreciation to the party and revolutionary state by shouting slogans.

At a meeting which was held on the occasion, a few verses were read from the Holy Koran. Next, the head of the National Reconciliation Committee of Kabul City, congratulated the prisoners on their release, on behalf of the members of the committee. He asked Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the DRA National front and head of the DRA Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, to deliver a speech.

Abdorrahim Hatef spoke in detail about the role of the DRA National Front in ensuring peace and national reconciliation in the country, including by the pardon and release of prisoners. He explained in depth the national reconciliation policy and the peaceful measures of the party and the revolutionary state. He asked the released prisoners to spare no patriotic efforts to achieve the humanitarian goals of the party and state in order to make up for their past deeds. Later, Comrade Zohur Razmjo, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City party committee, said to the released prisoners:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the Council of Ministers, and the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, I congratulate you on your freedom, which is being allowed in the light of the national reconciliation policy. We do not want to take away anybody's freedom. We have issued the amnesty decree. We declare that the process of release of those prisoners who carried out crimes against the country's external and internal security is continuing. They will be released on the basis of the work of national reconciliation commissions and upon guarantee that their activities will not be resumed. Come and forget the past, for our homeland and people need peace. [passage omitted]

According to the BAKHTAR correspondent, the prisoners were taken to their homes by special buses at the end of the ceremony. Prisoners from the provinces were sent by airplane.

The report adds that the process of the release of prisoners is continuing in the capital and in the provinces. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Meeting With Afghan Rebels Protested

LD080831 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Kabul, February 7, BAKHTAR — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) has assigned the Afghan Embassy in Tehran to submit on behalf of the Afghan Government the following protest note to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Based on news published by the newspaper *Islamic Republic of Iran*, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i had a meeting with leaders of the Afghan opposition groups and a round table was held with the participation of the ministers of Islamic guidance, culture, and higher studies and training of Iran with the leaders of the Afghan armed opposition. The note protests that Iran is continuing its direct intervention into the internal affairs of the independent and free state of the DRA resorting to provocative actions which are contrary to all internationally accepted norms.

The irresponsible and hostile attitude of the Iranian regime against Afghanistan takes place at a time when the Government of the DRA has announced the policy of national reconciliation in the country. These actions are not only in open violation with the accepted international norms but it also contradicts the principles of good neighbouring relations between the DRA and Iran as well.

The note lodges a strong protest to the Iranian side and demand from the Iranian circles to reconsider their provocative and hostile course against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Iran Said Undermining Reconciliation

LD061129 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, February 5, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The ruling regime of Iran is one of the hostile forces acting against the policy of national reconciliation announced by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

A majority of the Afghan people living in Iran have consistently decided to return to their homeland. However, the authorities of Islamic Republic of Iran have deterred the return of the Afghan citizens despite the recurrent requests made by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for their contribution.

Moreover, the authorities of the ruling regime of Iran have staged roundtable press interviews with the participation of the heads of Afghan armed groups and the direct involvement of Iranian top-level authorities. In these press interviews they have embarked upon sabotaging and undermining the policy of national reconciliation in order to confuse the public opinion of our countrymen residing in Iran. For instance, a roundtable conference was lately held with the participation of the heads of the Afghan armed groups and high-ranking Iranian officials

including ministers of Islamic guidance, higher studies, training and education. The participants of the roundtable conference adopted a clear hostile stand against the policy of national reconciliation.

This act of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in gross contradiction with all accepted international norms. Thus, the party and state of the DRA strongly condemn this action of the Iranian authorities. The authorities of the DRA firmly believe that the policy of national reconciliation is a proposal against war and bloodshed and no power is able to counter it.

Pakistan's Charges of Air Violations Groundless

LD081646 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] The charge d' affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1330 today and the following points were conveyed to him by the director of the First Political Section:

In line with its previous groundless and imaginary allegations, the Pakistani authorities recently have again alleged that on 15, 16, and 19 January the regions of (Shaiman) at Khyber Agency, Miram Shah, northern Waziristan, and (Ghandargay) at Bajaur Agency have been violated from the air and territorial jurisdiction of the DRA.

After investigating and assessing these claims, the relevant DRA authorities consider them as groundless allegations, rejecting them completely and demanding that the Pakistani Government put an end to such allegations and fabrications that can do nothing but aggravate the situation on the border of the two countries.

Karachi: Mujahidin Hit Soviet-Kabul Air Base

BK091330 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the freedom fighters are reported to have hit the biggest Soviet-Kabul military air base of (?Baghran), causing extensive damage. Four Soviet-Kabul troops were killed in the operation. The freedom fighters also attacked a Soviet-Kabul security post in Charikar in Parvan Province, destroying it completely.

Launch Several Attacks, Kill 20

BK080631 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] According to a report, the mujahidin in Afghanistan launched several attacks in Jalalabad, Zabol, and Qandahar towns and killed more than 20 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. A military workshop and two vehicles were destroyed due to bomb blasts in Jalalabad. The mujahidin also inflicted damage to military installations in (Surgahi) town. They attacked the KHAD office in Qandahar City and killed eight members of the spy organization. The mujahidin attacked Zabol Province's headquarters of Qalat-e-Ghelzai and killed the personnel in an armored carrier.

'Extremist Elements' Injure 5 in Herat City

LD081758 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] The extremist elements, by throwing a monkey wrench in the work of implementing the national reconciliation policy and in order to disrupt the peaceful life, are trying in vain to create a climate of fear by causing intimidation in crowded places.

A BIA correspondent reports from Herat Province that these elements have seriously injured five of our toiling compatriots, who were peasants and tradesmen, by launching five mortar shells on Darb-e Kosh Square, a crowded place in Herat City, around 1700 the day before yesterday. The injured were taken to the hospital immediately by security forces for treatment.

The BIA adds that the citizens of Herat, seeing their innocnet comrades covered in blood, expressed their hatred against this anti-Islamic action of the enemies of peace and tranquillity and seriously condemned it.

Explode Bomb at Shrine

LD061836 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] The extremist opposition elements who oppose Islam and the toiling people spare no hostile actions against the people and their religious shrines. They injured the pure feelings of our country's Muslim and toiling people by arranging an explosion at a shrine of the Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him and his family, at 1015 hours yesterday.

Quoting a relevant source, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a bomb planted by extremist opposition elements exploded when a large number of our compatriots were gathered to pay their respects at the holy shrine and were engaged in their religious rites. The report adds that the explosion did not cause any loss of life or material damage.

This criminal and antihuman action, which injured the heart of all our Muslim and religious compatriots, shows the anti-Islamic essense of those extremist elements who are trying to damage the process of national reconciliation that has started in our country.

Canadian Foreign Minister Calls on Gandhi

BK091622 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] India and Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding for expanding industrial cooperation. The industry minister, Mr Vengal Rao, and the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, Mr Joe Clark, intialled it in New Delhi today. The memorandum provides for joint ventures, technological collaboration, joint research and development, and a 2-way investment in areas beneficial to both the countries. Welcoming Canadian industries to establish export-oriented industries in India, Mr Vengal Rao said it is not difficult to arrange foreign collaboration that has in-built buy-back arrangements. He said there is enough scope for increasing export of Indian engineering goods to Canada.

Later, Mr Joe Clark called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. At the meeting, Canada's role in combatting terrorism was appreciated. The recently concluded extradition treaty was regarded as yet another step in the efforts of the two countries to deal with terrorism. Expanding India-Canadian cooperation, developments in Scuth Africa, and the forthcoming Commonwealth summit at Vancouver were discussed. Mr Clark expressed his government's support to the objective of the Africa Fund.

DRA's Wakil Meets Gandhi; Holds News Conference

BK091609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mr Abdol Wakil, apprised the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today about his country's recent initiatives at national reconciliation and its efforts to find a peaceful, political solution to the Afghan issue under UN auspices. He expressed the hope that progress would be made toward this end at the forthcoming proximity talks in Geneva later this month.

The issue also figured at the meeting between Mr Wakil and the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, which lasted for about 2 hours. Besides the situation in Afghanistan, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters. They agreed to further intensify their economic, commercial, and cultural ties through frequent high-level contacts. They also decided to undertake a comprehensive review of all aspects of bilateral ties at the next meeting of the India-Afghanistan joint commission to be held in Kabul in a month. He evinced keen interest in the recently launched Africa Fund.

Addressing a news conference in the afternoon, Mr Wakil said the question of international guarantee is one of the major areas to be finalized at the proximity talks. Replying to a query, he clarified that Inida is not involved for the time being in the proposed international guarantees to back up a settlement of the Afghan problem. He said if the need arose this question could be raised with India since it favored a peaceful, political settlement of the Afghan problem. Mr Wakil said this issue did not figure during his talks with Mr Tiwari.

In reply to another question, he said four documents would be signed at the proximity talks. These include the bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on noninterference, provision for voluntary return of refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan, international guarantees for cessation of insurgency, and interrelationship between these developments and withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Gandhi Reiterates Stand on Gurkhaland Issue

BK071720 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out division of West Bengal or any other state. Talking to newsmen at Raj Bhavan [Governor's residence] in Darjeeling this afternoon, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the center has made its stand very clear on the Gurkhaland issue. He said both the center and the West Bengal government will try to solve the problems of the Gurkhas through dialogue, and the process has already started. About the cut-off year for citizenship, the prime minister said opening the issue would help neither the Indian Gurkhas nor the non-Indian Gurkhas. But he hoped that all the problems would be solved through discussions.

Earlier, a GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] delegation led by Mr Subash Ghisingh submitted to the prime minister a memorandum containing its demands. Mr Gandhi said he would look into them.

The chief minister of West Bengal, Mr Jyoti Basu, who was present during the press conference said that the Gurkhaland issue was not negotiable. The situation in Darjeeling has not changed as violence still continues. He said the Gurkhaland agitation is not a problem of West Bengal only but is an all India issue.

Troop Withdrawal From Pakistan Border Begins

BK080309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] India and Pakistan have begun pulling back troops to de-escalate tension on the border. The All India Radio correspondent quoting defense sources says the withdrawal will be in gradual stages as agreed between the two countries in new Delhi early this week. The two countries have to complete the withdrawal of force within 15 days from the date of the signing of the agreement.

The accord, signed on Wednesday [4 February] after several days of discussions, lays down that the two countries will not attack each other and [will] pull out their forces to peacetime locations. The talks were held at the secretary's level.

An Indian delegation has been invited to visit Islamabad later this month to discuss further concrete measures.

Akal Takht Chief Urged To Clarify Stand on Unity

BK061622 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] The working committee of the ruling Akali Dal has urged the acting chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] Jathedar [religious group leader] Darshan Singh to reconsider his present stand. A resolution to this effect was adopted at a meeting of the working committee held under the presidentship of Mr Surjit Singh Barnala in Chandigarh this afternoon. The resolution said a 7-member committee of the party was sent to meet the Akal Takht chief to clarify the party's point of view about the unity move. But this committee was prevented from contacting the jathedar. The working committee urged the jathedar not to give any such turn to the prevailing situation in the state which may add to difficulties, weaken the Sikh panth [religion] and affect the unity and integrity of the country. The resolution urged the Akal Takht chief to give them an opportunity to explain their view point in the interest of unity.

Meanwhile, in Faridkot the Akali Dal - (Theruman) group decided to defy the directive issued by Mr Darshan Singh and to maintain its political identity.

In Amritsar, the five head priests have asked the ruling Akali Dal MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly], MP's [Members of Parliament], and office bearers to submit their resignations to the Akal Takht by 1700 on Sunday [8 February]. This was stated by the head priest at a news conference in Amritsar today.

Appeal 'Turned Down'

BK071144 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Excerpts] In Chandigarh, the legislative party of the ruling Akali Dal today expressed regret that the jathedar [religious group leader] of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] had turned down the appeal to reconsider his present stand. At an emergency meeting the party unanimously adopted a resolution stating that the Akali Dal stands for unity. But this unity has to be based on peace, brotherhood, national unity and integrity, and the glory of the panth [Sikh community].

The meeting pointed out that it has always been the practice of the Akal Takht to take decisions on important matters concerning the panth through consultations with various sections of opinion and consensus. The party reiterated that it regards the Akal Takht as the supreme temple seat of the Sikh panth. It expressed concern over the recent secessionist pronouncement by the panthic committee and wanted to know whether the panthic committee was supreme or the Akal Takht. [passage omitted]

Tha All India Sikh Conference in a statement in New Delhi said the Sikh community is highly perturbed by the role of the jathedar of Akal Takht. It appealed to the Sikhs to define the qualifications on the appointment procedure of the jathedar. The statement said that the jathedar of Akal Takht should be free and not subserviant to the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee.

In another statement, the National Sikh Youth Federation, Delhi, has condemned the attempt by the jathedar of the Akal Takht to misuse its sacred authority to weaken the political and constitutional authority of the Akali Dal, Longowal.

The leader of the Punjab Congress-I legislative party, Mrs Gurbinder Kaur Barar, in a statement in Chandigarh said her party will continue to support the Barnala ministry if it stood firm against the antinational and communal forces. She also appealed to all secular and democratic forces to support the Barnala government at this crucial juncture.

In another development, the president and other office bearers of the Chandigarh unit of the Akali Dal, Longowal, have resigned. The president of the unit, Mr Joginder Singh Shani, said that the decision was taken at the party executive meeting in Chandigarh today.

'No Danger' to Barnala Ministry

BK071407 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Reports from Amritsar say that five Sikh head priests today turned down the appeal of the ruling Akali Dal to reconsider the decision to form a new United Akali Dal. They told newsmen that they have not dissolved the Akali Dal, but only changed, what they called, the guiding leaders of the party.

PTI quotes [words indistinct] that there be no danger to the Punjab ministry headed by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala falling unless the center wishes to dismiss it.

Barnala 'Has Not Resigned'

BK081615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] The Punjab chief minister and the president of the ruling Akali Dal, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that he has not resigned from the chief ministership or presidentship of the party. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this evening, he said he has sent a letter to the Akal Takht acting chief, Professor Jathedar Darshan Singh, reiterating his party's commitment to the panthic unity. However, he said that the unity should based on principles for which the party has been fighting for the past 70 years.

Mr Barnala said unity should be achieved through a consensus amongst the concerned parties. The services of his party are always available to the jathedar for the attainment of this goal, he said. Mr Barnala also said that he has not not received resignations from any of his ministerial colleague or party functionary.

The letter while appreciating the efforts of the Akal Takht chief in bringing about unity, reiterates Mr Barnala and his party's full faith in the supremacy of the Akal Takht. He said the two resolutions passed by the party in this regard recently have already been brought to the notice of the jathedar.

Meanwhile, the Akali Dal legislative party, which met in Chandigarh this evening, reaffirmed its full faith in the leadership of Mr Barnala.

The Congress-I Parliamentary board member, Mr Darbara Singh, has said his party respects the majority verdicts of the people of Punjab and continues to support the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, on the secular basis of the Rajiv-Longowal accord. In a statement in New Delhi, he said Mr Barnala's principle stand would enjoy the support of secular and democratic forces and political parties in the country.

Opposed to Akal Takht Confrontation

BK091620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Punjab chief minister and the president of the ruling Akali Dal, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that the Shiromani Akali Dal is a democratic party and none of its bearers, including the president, has the power to unilaterally dissolve the party or change its character. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this evening, he said the party general secretary, Mr Harbhajan Singh Sandhu, was sent to Amritsar yesterday to deliver a letter to the acting chief of the Akal Takht, Professor Darshan Singh, and seek some clarification as per the resolution adopted by the party's working committee. He was not authorized to make any other commitment on behalf of the party. Mr Barnala reiterated that his party stands for panthic unity, but it can be arrived at only after consultations with all concerned. He clarified that he and his party are opposed to any confrontation with the Akal Takht. However, he added that no decision should be taken in haste, as this can hinder the unity talks.

Mr Barnala refused to make any comment on the report of the Akal Takht declaring him guilty of religious misconduct and asking him to be present before the Takht on Wednesday [11 February] afternoon.

More Attacks in Punjab; Akali Youth Wing Dissolved

BK070903 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] In Punjab, Saheed [martyr] Bhagat Sing's [Sikh National Hero] younger sister, Mrs Shakuntala, has been seriously injured in an attack by suspected terrorists. In the incident, the terrorists attacked the house where Mrs Shakuntala was staying in a village near Bhogpur this morning. Mrs Shakuntala's daughter, Mrs Gurdev Kaur, was also seriously injured in the attack. Her daughter's father-in-law, Mr Bhaktarwar Singh, — a farmer — died in the incident.

In another incident, the cashier of a paper mill was shot at and seriously injured by some unidentified gunmen near Balachor in Hoshiarpur District. A farmer, Kurbir Singh, was injured in a village near Jullundur.

The president of the youth wing of the ruling Akali Dal, professor Prem Singh Chandumajra, says that he is dissolving the youth wing. He was speaking in Chandigarh after a meeting of the working committee and district presidents of the youth wing. He said the youth wing is being dissolved in accordance with the directives issued by the five Sikh head priests.

'Notorious Terrorist' Killed in Punjab 8 Feb

BK080859 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] In Punjab, one notorious terrorist was killed and two arrested in an encounter with the police near Valtoha in Amritsar District yesterday.

According to the state police [chief], Mr Ribeiro, he has been identified as Kamaljit Singh, alias General Sher Singh Sher, the chief of the so-called Khalistan armed police who was responsible for a number [of] terrorist activities, including murders.

The two arrested have been identified as Harpit Singh Saniwalla and Satinder Singh Bhola of Bhatinda.

9 Feb 'Terrorist' Incidents Kill 5

BK090321 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including a deputy superintendent of police [DSP] and two terrorists, were killed in three separate incidents of terrorist activities. In Amritsar District, some terrorists attacked the house of DSP Harpal Singh in Baba Bakala town and killed him and his teenage son, Gurmeet Singh, early this morning. Another child of the DSP was injured. In the same district, one terrorist was killed in an encounter with the police and paramilitary forces in a village under Patti police station last night. In the third incident in Village Jodh Singhwala in Jullundur District, two terrorists opened fire on migrating laborers, killing one of them. The laborers chased the two assailants and killed one of them. The other managed to escape.

The police chief, Mr Ribeiro, said that the police and paramilitary forces have arrested about one dozen dreaded terrorists during the last 3 days from different parts of the state. They include Harvinder Singh and Balvinder Singh who were responsible for about two dozen murders.

2 'Shot Dead' 10 Feb

BK100859 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] In Punjab, two persons, including the son of an inspector general of police, were shot dead by terrorists in Patiala this morning. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that Dr

Manjit Singh Mangat, son of the inspector general of the Punjab armed police, Mr D.S. Mangat, was gunned down by four motorcycle-borne terrorists near the local bus stand. He was traveling in a car when the terrorists attacked him. A bystander was also killed in the firing. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot. A massive manhunt has been launched to arrest the culprits. Police all over the state have been alerted.

Junejo Details Indian Troop 'Concentration'

BK061540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated Pakistan's desire for peace and good relations with its neighbors, as this is the cornerstone of its policy. The prime minister, who is also chairman of the Pakistan Muslim League, stated this at the concluding session of the party's central executive committee, which he chaired today in Lahore. The prime minister made it clear that Pakistan cannot ignore its defense requirements and that it is capable of dealing with any aggression.

He gave details of his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the summit conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Bangalore last year.

He also gave details of the situation arising from the Indian troops concentration along Pakistani borders, the government's retaliatory measures, and his telephone conversation with the Indian prime minister. The prime minister informed the meeting that an agreement has been reached between the two countries to withdraw respective troops to peacetime locations. Pakistan is a peace-loving country and believes the two countries should utilize their resources for the good of their people, he added.

The prime minister urged his party workers to work for the implementation of his 5-point socioeconomic program.

Says 'Agreement' Rules Out War

BK061737 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said the situation has considerably improved with the signing of an agreement between Pakistan and India to de-escalate tension, and the process is continuing. Talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport before his departure for Islamabad this evening, he said the general tension is easing and the situation is improving, as compared to that on 22 and 23 January, as a result of the foreign secretary's visit to India and the subsequent agreement.

The prime minister ruled out the possibility of a war with India after this agreement and said: (?I, too), do not want war and, God willing, it will not take place. He expressed the confidence that the decision of the two countries in this regard has provided the people with relief and satisfaction, especially those living in border areas.

About the law and order situation in Sind, the prime minister said the situation in the interior areas of the province and in Karachi is better and is improving gradually. The prime minister was seen off by Punjab Governor Makhdoon Mahammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, Federal Minister Iqbal Ahmad Khan, provincial ministers, and senior civil and military officials. The prime minister was accompanied by Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah and the federal minister for industry and production.

Earlier, the prime minister, who is also the president of the Pakistan Muslim League, presided over the party's central working committee meeting, which adopted five resolutions. One resolution welcomed the India-Pakistan agreement under which the two sides will not attack each other in any sector. It said the process to end tension has begun and efforts for the total withdrawal of troops to peace-time locations should continue. The working committee ratified the government's policy for establishing balaced, respectable, and honorable relations with India free from conflict and rivalry. Other resolutions relate to budget and taxation systems, recent Karachi incidents, and party organization.

Briefs Cabinet on Border Agreement

BK081547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Excerpt] The federal cabinet was today briefed about the recent agreement between Pakistan and India relating to measures to de-escalate and defuse the current border tension. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo presided over the meeting in Rawalpindi. The cabinet described the decision to withdraw troops from the Ravi-Chenab corridor as the first optimistic measure and expressed the hope that similar measures will be taken soon to withdraw troops from the (?all sectors) of the Pakistan-India border. [passage omitted on improving transport facilities, fertilizers distribution]

Joint Trade Committee With Bangladesh Meets

BK091546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The inagural meeting of the sixth session of Pakistan-Bangladesh joint committee on trade was held in Islamabad today, reviewing trade relations between the two countries. The meeting also reviewed various steps to improve these ties. The commerce secetaries of the two countries headed their respective delegations at the meeting.

The meeting noted that, although there has been a considerable increase in Pakistan-Bangladesh trade in recent years, there is still a broad scope for further increases. The two sides suggested various steps to further increase trade between the two countries and to promote effective mutual cooperation. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of decisions made at the fifth session of the committee in Dhaka in November 1985, noting that most of these decisions have been satisfactorily implemented.

Press Note Issued on 6 Feb Karachi Violence

BK070223 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] A procession began from (Ghausia) Mosque in Karachi yesterday. The procession, before terminating at Liaqatabad-10, set fire to a minibus which was, however, saved from being completely gutted. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Karachi-West says some miscreants also threw stones at vehicles in Liaqatabad and obstructed traffic. Police used tear

gas to control the situation. The crowd opened fire on police, forcing them to return fire with shotguns. The press note adds that 10 persons were injured.The police said one constable was stabbed and seven others were injured by stones. Many arrests have been made, and the situation is reported to be under control.

Press Note Issued on Student Violence

BK080229 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] A press note issued in Karachi said that yesterday afternoon a group of students shot at an opponent group at Sind Medical College, injuring two students. One of the injured died, while the other's condition is satisfactory.

Meanwhile, sporadic incidents of stoning vehicular traffic in the Liaqatabad police station area in Karachi's west district continued yesterday. Police used tear gas several times to disperse certain groups and arrested some people.

Press Note Issued on Bus Attacks

BK100224 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration says a group of people attacked two minibuses in District West yesterday and tried to set them on fire. The press note adds that the miscreants seriously injured two minibus workers who later died in the hospital.Police have arrested many persons.

A group of students also tried to set fire to two buses in District East.

3 Killed, Several Injured in Peshawar Explosion

BK081124 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] A report received from Peshawar says a parcel explosion took place in a double story hotel in the busy Ghantaghar Chawk in the city this afternoon. Initial reports, say 3 persons, including a policeman, were killed and 26 others injured. The injured were rushed to Lady Reading Hospital where 14 perrons were discharged after first aid. After the explosion a fire broke out as a result of bursting of sui [cooking gas] gas pipe, which has been brought under control. A nearby electric transformer was also hit. Rescue parties are engaged in removing the debris.

28 Hurt in 2 Bomb Blasts in Quetta Hotels

BK070227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Last night 28 people were injured in 2 bomb explosions in the heavily populated area of Quetta City. One of the injured has died, and 10 others are in critical condition. These bombs were placed in two hotels in the city.

Meanwhile, people from various walks of life, including tribal leaders, have condemned the activities of antisocial elements.

SRI LANKA

LANKA PUWATH Details Latest Offensive in North

BK100825 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0755 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Colombo, Feb 10 (LANKA PUWATH) — The security forces are now clearing large areas of jungle, hamlets, and villages of terrorists, whilst occupying their strongholds and destroying arms and ammunition dumps of terrorists, Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. Many terrorists are fleeing into the forests which are now being encircled and combed.

In Mannar, after occupying Mantai, the security forces destroyed the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] headquarters, ammunition dumps, [and] field medical centres at Parappakadanthan. Further advances have been made eastwards past Pandiwirichchan (occupied on 6 February) and to the infamous Vilankulam Junction where many land mines were exploded causing much damage and loss of life to the security forces in the past years.

In the process concrete bunkers have been destroyed and a lot of ammunition including .303 rifles, AK47 rifles, [and] 5 smgs have been captured. A number of ammunition dumps were destroyed.

Uilankulam was secured on 9 February (yesterday).

The security forces are in occupation of Nanaddan since 6 February

Meanwhile, security forces under Brigadier Denzil Kobbekaduwa have occupied the notorious Adampan where nearly a year ago 11 security forces men were killed and 3 lost in a confrontation. Adampan was occupied by 9 February by the Ceylon Light Infantry 3rd Battalion.

The next place of occupation (9 February) by security forces moving westward from Vavuniya was Madhu church area which had been a terrorist base for over 3 years. This area has now been occupied. Yesterday morning the bishop of Mannar accompanied by Brigadier Denzil Kobbekaduwa who is in charge of the area operations and General Cyril Ranatunga flew to Madhu church, where Lt. Col. Jayasundera of Gajaba Regiment is in control.

Meanwhile in the north, security forces in Killinochchi after security the LTTE base and headquarters in Urthayapuram (7 January) have advanced and secured Thunukkai, another famous stronghold (9 February).

In Jaffna under Col. Wimalaratne security forces from Palaly and Vasavilan camps have advanced further from Kattuwan Junction destroying training camps of terrorists (9 February) and consolidating function.

In these operations the security forces had to cover on foot thick jungle in heavy rain without proper food and in their wet clothing for six days, till Madhu where bread and clean water was available for them (9 February).

Meanwhile in Trincomalee in Kottamkulam, west of Kurumbupiddy 10 miles into the jungle the security forces captured a long standing terrorists base. The following items were recovered: 7 tractors, 8 trailers, 1 water bowser, 1 tipper, 1 motorcycle, 12 No 36 grenades, 2 M14 grenades, 55 No 303 ammunition, 4 tents, [and] 3 robes of Buddhist monks. An ammunition dump was also biasted. The security forces are occupying the place.

The abovementioned operations cover roughly one-fifth the area of Sri Lanka, stretching from Mannar to Madhu to Killinochchi, Jaffna and eastwards to Trincomalee.

'Communique' Issued to Persons Returning

BK091153 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1115 GMT 9 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item — all quotations marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 09 (LANKA PUWATH) — A special government communique issued by the Media Centre in Colombo today [9 February] states that it has reliably learnt the the LTTE are trying to send in terrorists posing as refugees. In order to prevent such terrorists infiltrating into the country, the Government of Sri Lanka has taken the following steps:

"All those who wish to bring back their families and friends should give to the commanding officer, Mannar District, names. addresses, and other details of those whom they wish to bring home to Sri Lanka.

"All those who want to come back should inform the commanding officer through returning refugees of their intention to come back to Sri Lanka give their names, addresses, places where they lived in earlier, in Sri Lanka; the names of closest relatives in Sri Lanka; and the possible dates of departure from south India. [sentence as received]

"As informed before, all returning refugees should return to Talaimannar pier only during daylight hours between 8 am and 4 pm.

"All returning vallams, boats, and dingies should stop when ordered to by the Navy which will search and identify the people and escort the vallams, boats, and dingies to the landing points.

Further details can be had from the commanding officer, Mannar.

Ultralight Aircraft Banned, To Be Shot Down

BK070751 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0731 GMT 7 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 07 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Sri Lankan Government has banned with immediate effect the flying of ultralight aircraft over any part of the country. All such flying

craft will be shot down forthwith, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

LANKA PUWATH Reports 'Terrorist' Incidents

BK070813 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0740 GMT 7 Feb 87

["LANKA PUWATH/OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 07 (LANKA PUWATH) — Two separatist terrorists were killed by government troops in four separate incidents during the past two days in Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka, the Media Centre told LANAK PUWATH.

At Navatkuda, a gang of terrrorists hurled hand grenades at [words indistinct] security forces patrol yesterday. Troops returned fire killing one terrorist while the others fled. A No 36 mills grenade was found near the body of the dead terrorist.

At Kallady, yesterday morning a police constable and a driver of a jeep were wounded when terrorists attacked the jeep. Troops repulsed the attack. A hand grenade and a few rounds of AK 47 ammunition were recovered from the scene.

At Akkaraipattu yesterday, troops effectively repulsed a terrorist attack and killed a terrorist belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. LTTE literature and a Honda 125 cc motorcycle was [as received] recovered from the scene.

A terrorist suspect, Kanagaratnam Devendrarajah was detained by the security authorities for questioning at Batticaloa on February 2.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

Welcomed by Velayati

LD071345 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7, IRNA — Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja arrived here Saturday, heading an eco-political delegation and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Tehran International Airport.

Upon his arrival, Kusumaatmaja told reporters that since both Iran and Indonesia are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Non-aligned Movement, and Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries there are extensive grounds for promotion of Tehran-Jakarta relations.

The Indonesian foreign minister expressed hope that his visit to Tehran would be a turning point in expanding Iran-Indonesia relations and that he would be able to hold fruitful talks with Iranian officials on issues of mutual interest and other international matters.

During a visit by Iranian Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi Ja'fari to Jakarta in late January Iran and Indonesia signed an economic agreement, a letter of understanding, and four commercial contracts on the basis of which Indonesia will import top grade crude oil from Iran in return for exports of tin, caoutchouc, fertilizers, tires, and other non-oil goods.

Although Indonesia is one of the oil exporting countries it has so far imported top grade crude oil from Saudi Arabia for use in petrochemical industries and manufacture of oil products.

Exchanges Views With Velayati

LD071800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar, who has arrived in Tehran at the head of a delegation, discussed and exchanged views on expansion of bilateral relations, mutual cooperation in international organizations, and important international issues such as Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Cambodia at a meeting with Foreign Minister Velyati today.

Noting the priority given to the Islamic countries and the Third World nations in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati stated: We are interested in expanding relations with the most populous Muslim country.

In connection with the imposed war and bombing of residential areas by the Saddamist regime, our foreign minister praised the stand adopted by the Indonesian foreign minister in condemning Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons and that country's stands at the Islamic summit, and declared: There is no alternative to eradicating the present regime in Iraq. We have mobilized all of our resources in this direction. One must think of options for the future of Iraq. We protect the sovereignty of Iraq and of other neighbors.

Velayati added: One must wonder why no reaction has been shown by international organizations and those individuals who pretend to be interested in doing something about the imposed war against the background of savage attacks by Iraq on residential areas.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar replied by noting that the close cooperation in political and international relations between the two countries was the cause of the expansion of direct trade between the two sides during the recent visit to Indonesia by the Iranian commerce minister, adding: Bilateral relations, within both OPEC and the Non-aligned Movement have been very close. He said: We understand the reasons for your absence at the recent Islamic summit. Iran has consummately displayed its very active presence at the Harare session and other international meetings.

In conclusion, with regard to recent moves by the U.S. Navy near Lebanese shores, Velayati stated: The time when a minority group could impose its expansionist policies in Lebanon will not return. The people of Lebanon are aware and are pursuing their rights.

Conveys Message to Khamene'i

NC090936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Indonesian foreign minister, who is in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i last night. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Political Affairs for Asian and Pacific Countries, the director of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's Department for Middle East Affairs, and the two countries' ambassadors.

The Indonesian foreign minister first conveyed a sincere and warm message and greetings from President Suharto and informed Mr Khamene'i of his positive talks with our country's high-ranking officials. He then said: In view of their long-lasting, rich, and historic cultural heritage, your people will not face many difficulties when the war is over. He stressed the need to expand bilateral relations and referred to the absence of genuine action by international organizations, saying: We must stand firmly on our own two feet and seek friends who are acquainted with our problems and who share a mutual determination to defend our nations' interests. This is why Iran and Indonesia can learn from each other and expand relations by exchanging experience.

President Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the Indonesian president's warm greetings nad his satisfaction with the growing relations between Iran and Indonesia, saying: The great Muslim nation of Indonesia, which is among the world's largest Islamic countries, is very close to Iran in both culture and traditions. The Islamic Republic of Iran grants absolute priority to its relations with Muslim countries. The president then stressed the various opportunities for exchanging experience that would promote construction and welfare in the two Muslim countries of Iran and Indonesia, adding: Unfortunately, there

are great obstacles to the establishment of relations among Muslim nations, and we should help each other to overcome these obstacles. One of the most important obstacles is the arrogant policy pursued by the big powers, which cannot tolerate friendship among Muslim countries and cannot stand to see them sympathizing with one another. Referring to the fact that the arrogant powers are doing their best to create a schism between the various Islamic countries, the president said: Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, we have felt the impact of the sinister policies pursued by world arrogance toward our neighbors and a number of other countries, and we have tried to overcome them. Apart from Iraq — which has tried with its attacks to threaten the existence of the Islamic Republic of Iran and, naturally, to which our nation was forced to respond defending its revolution and country — we have no problems with Muslim countries; indeed, we have good relations with them. But the colonialist powers have now closed ranks and are making a strong effort to separate the Muslim nations.

At the end of his remarks, the president stressed the need for greater effort by and meetings between the leaders of Islamic countries. He described the relations that exist between Iran and Indonesia as good, and said that the exchange of visits by the two countries' officials permits coordination of political views and bolsters the expansion of cultural, economic, commercial, and technical ties.

Meets Hasemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi

LD081927 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani told visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja here Sunday that the unanticipated arrival in Tehran of McFarlane earlier last year and his excuse for the uninvited visit had demonstrated to the Iranians that the United States continues to be the arch-enemy of Iran and that the designation "arch satan" perfectly befits the U.S. Government. [passage omitted]

During the visit the Indonesian minister expressed pleasure over development of relations between the Islamic Republic and his country and expressed hope that the two Muslim states would continue to upgrade their relations in future.

Earlier Sunday the Indonesian minister met and held talks with Prime Minister Musavi. Musavi said to the Indonesian official that the development in relations between Iran and Indonesia provide a bright outlook in the interest of the two countries. He said that Iran is ready to cooperate with the Indonesian Government especially in economic areas.

More on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meeting

NC090858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Indonesian foreign minister met and talked with Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During this meeting, which was also attended by our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, the Indonesian foreign minister expressed satisfaction at his friendly visit to Iran. Stressing the need to expand relations and cooperation between the two countries, he said: Since the accreditation of the new Indonesian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, relations between the two countries have started to improve and have expanded. I hope that in contrast to the past, when trade and relations between the two countries were weak, these ties will swiftly expand in the future to the point where they become very good indeed.

The Indonesian foreign minister described the Iranian commerce minister's visit to his country and the agreement between Iran and Indonesia to sign trade accords as the beginning of a new chapter in the expansion of relations between the two countries. He expressed the hope that his visit to Iran and his meetings with the Islamic Republic's leaders will lead to the consolidation of friendship between the two countries.

The Indonesian foreign minister then expressed his interest in the political aspects of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and its achievements, and said that he would like to hear the views of the Majlis speaker on political matters, the MacFarlane trip, and the recent Iran-U.S. issue.

The Majlis speaker then stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination among Islamic countries and the expansion of good relations between Iran and the Muslim nation of Indonesia. He stated: It is evident that today the enemies of Islam do not want the Islamic countries to be united. As leaders of Islamic countries we should coordinate our resources, for the glory of Islam. We consider your country an important one, and believe that if we coordinate the use of our resources, the Muslims of the world can achieve glory.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Islam and the Koran are truly submissive in the world, because of the discord and lack of cooperation among Islamic governments. The enemies of Islam have realized this and want to prevent cooperation among us. We think that the war of Iraq against Iran was also planned on the same basis. They think that if this war continues they will have directly achieved their goal. If we have a cease-fire without destroying the true roots of the war, the flames of the conflict will continue to burn, fuelled by the grudges, the differing views, and the destruction caused by this war. To tell the truth, we do not see a bright horizon now as far as an end to the war in its present form is concerned, and our enemies will continue to exploit us. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said: If we, you, and for example Saudi Arabia cooperated, we would not have such problems. Why should the situation be such that your oil should become a weapon that can affect the world's important oil issues? [sentence as heard] These conflicts also prevent the Muslims' voices from being correctly used.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then emphasized the fact that the Islamic Republic is fully prepared to cooperate seriously with Islamic countries. The Indonesian foreign minister's visit to Iran could pave the way for this, he said, and went on: If cooperation among Islamic countries were serious, Israel could not exercise so much intimidation against Palestine, and arrogance would not be prepared to disregard the voice of 1 billion Muslims for the sake of Israel with its few millions. But when countries like Egypt, Morocco, and Jordan associate easily with the United

States, Muslims become targets of extortion in many parts of the world. Thus, many Muslims are massacred in countries like Kampuchea. If we were serious then no one would dare oppress the Muslims.

The Majlis speaker then referred to the recent Iran-U.S. issue and said: What we did with the United States was an interesting historical point. About 2 years ago, the United States started to send messages to us through various channels, to the effect that it had no hostility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. We could not believe this, because we could see the effects of U.S. hostility everywhere. We finally decided to carry out a test to see how true this claim was, and how sincere they were. It was easy for us to carry out this test, because we have assets in the United States that have been seized, contrary to international laws. We proposed to the United States that if it wanted to prove that it was not our enemy, it could defreeze our assets as a sign of its goodwill. We stated this officially to the Japanese. The United States did not give a clear answer to this proposal, and it did not know what path to choose. Thus, it approached us through arms dealers, because it knew that we buy arms. This test also disgraced the United States, because it did not keep the promises it had made to the middlemen. It charged us several times the true price for the small quantity of arms that it did sell us. Furthermore, contrary to our repeated emphasis that we do not cooperate with Israel, it claimed that Israel was involved. We do not know whether this is true or not. But even the fact that this was said shows the hostility and satanic nature of the United States. Again, the way that McFarlane came to Iran was questionable. From this too we realized that the United States is resorting to mischief and that it does not want to make a new start. In short, it should be said that the United States failed this test and we saw that it deserves the designation of arch satan all the more.

Departs; Visit Assessed

NC090708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, who has been visiting our country at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati.

Before leaving Tehran, he spoke to our correspondent about the outcome of his trip, saying: During this visit, we held constructive talks on the expansion of bilateral relations, especially in the economic sphere. He then referred to our commerce minister's recent visit to Indonesia and to the discussions held at that time, saying: Our discussions during this visit focused on those talks and on matters of mutual interest. In our meetings with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we were informed about developments in Lebanon and in the Middle East, and it was emphasized that the Islamic Conference Organization should be more active.

Mr Velayati also spoke to a correspondent from the Central News Unit about the outcome of the Indonesian foreign minister's visit to our country. We invite you to listen to his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, what was the outcome of the Indonesian foreign minister's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the Almighty. The visit paid to Tehran by Indonesian Foreign Minister Mr Mokhtar was an official one, in response to an invitation [words indistinct]. Relations between Iran and Indonesia, two important Islamic countries, began to expand some 2 years ago. Last year, the Indonesian minister of trade visited our country for the first time, and our Commerce Minister Mr Ja'fari recently paid a reciprocal visit to Indonesia in recent weeks. The outcome of his talks with his Indonesian counterparts was positive. They agreed that next year a considerable quantity of goods needed by the two sides would be exchanged without middlemen; we will buy products such as caoutchouc, which is the raw material for rubber, as well as [word indistinct] and other products, and they will purchase oil and non-petroleum products from us.

Shortly after Mr Ja'fari's visit, the Indonesian foreign minister visited our country. While he was here, we held positive talks on bilateral relations and on their future expansion. He invited me to visit Indonesia, which I will do at an appropriate time. In truth, we regard Indonesia as quite important. It is the largest Islamic country, in terms or population, and it has a long-lasting history of Islamic culture and civilization. We have had cultural, economic, and political relations for many years. The expansion of our relations with Indonesia falls within the framework of our foreign policy, which seeks the expansion of relations with Islamic countries and with the Third World. In short, we view this visit as having been extremely positive. [end recording]

Ceremony Marks Air Force Personnel Anniversary

Khamene'i Delivers Address 8 Feb

LD081521 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Address by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Air Force personnel on anniversary of Air Force personnel expressing loyalty to Ayatollah Khomeyni; delivered at the Hoseyniyeh Mosque in Jamaran on 8 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On behalf of the commander and the personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the clerical brothers, members of the ideological-political bureau of the Air Force, I sincerely express my felicitations to our beloved imam, leader, guide, and teacher. Today is 19 Bahman [8 February], the anniversary of the day when the Air Force carried out its glorious epic deeds. On 19 Bahman, in a corner of Tehran that had been turned into a political nerve center of the world and that had attracted the world's attention, an event occurred that undoubtedly decided the fate of the Armed Forces and that certainly had great influence on the fate of the revolution. A number of young men from the Air Force, while wearing their Air Force uniforms and bravely and proudly clutching their identification cards, went through Iranian streets, the streets of Tehran, singing songs and chanting slogans until they reached the residence of our illustri-

our imam, this Mecca of the hearts of the revolutionaries of Iran and the world.

This was not an ordinary trip. It was not an ordinary pilgrimage. Each day and each hour thousands of people rushed to the residence that is the home of hearts. On that day the movement by the Air Force personnel was like the crushing of prison walls, the passing of an obstacle, and the breaking of a solid chain placed on the feet of the Armed Forces' personnel and believed to be unbreakable. This was a brave act that exploded, like a bomb, around the world in those days. It brought joy to the nation's hearts, it clarified the future of the Armed Forces, it showed the path; at the same time, it played a major role in the fate of the revolution, especially on 21, 22, and 23 Bahman [10, 11, and 12 February].

I should sincerely say to our beloved imam, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the kind father of our nation and especially of the Armed Forces, that the Air Force has followed the same path over the 8 years since that event, up to the present day. It was due to the same awareness and belief in the Air Force personnel that the Air Force — before other parts of the Armed Forces — was quickly taken out of the hands of those who were hostile and were strangers to the revolution both before and after its victory.Fortunately, over the past few years, the commanders and officials of the Air Force have been chosen from among believing and sincere individuals.

All these things have enabled the Air Force to play an outstanding and decisive role in the combat operations on the battlefronts. Since 19 Bahman last year and our last meeting when we were received by the imam, in at least three important offensives and in various operations, in daily attacks and defenses, the Air Force has compiled a brilliant record and has offered dear and valuable martyrs to the revolution. Your role in Val-Fajr 8, in the victorious Karbala'-5 offensive, in Karbala'-6, and in Karbala'-1 was a distinct role. During this period your vigilant antiaircraft defenses downed more than 150 violating enemy aircraft; you crushed the hopes of the enemy in its imaginary superiority and domination of its Air Force over our country and nation; and you blazed new trails in defensive and offensive moves, in support and air transport, in training, and in all other activities and achieved valuable results.

As a part of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Air Force is beloved by the imam and is trusted by the nation. Since the beginning of the revolution certain people and various counterrevolutionary groups had certain designs on the Armed Forces. The powerful bulwark that prevented all these conspiracies was first the illustrious personality of our dear imam, and then all revolutionary personalities and organizations following in his footsteps.

Just a moment ago he instructed me to tell you, dear military brothers, that from the beginning he has been anxious to preserve and maintain the Armed Forces and that he has defended them; today, too, he is anxious to protect and maintain the Armed Forces, and will defend them. He instructed me to say that many people wished to destroy the Armed Forces: both from the outside and, by some weak, subservient, low-spirited individuals who were not in harmony with the revolution, from within. The illustrious and noble figure of our dear imam stood against all those who tried to drag the Armed Forces to despondency, to corruption, to destruction, and to deviation; and he said it is the same today.

Our dear imam's recommendation to you, which I tell you on his behalf and which I heard from his own blessed tongue a few moments ago, is that you, the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, should be vigilant and identify those inside the Armed Forces who are not willing to ensure that the Armed Forces are an independent, proud, revolutionary force, one that is on the side of the people. You should report these individuals to your officials, your commanders, and those who are responsible. The Armed Forces should be completely and sincerely at the service of the revolution; and today, with God's grace, the majority of personnel in our great and powerful Armed Forces serve the goals of the revolution.

I would like to say that it is with the same spirit of a Basij volunteer that a pilot sits in his high-flying aircraft and penetrates the antiaircraft defenses of the enemy and attacks his targets, defending his revolution and country and returning. When a pilot, an officer, an NCO, an Air Force technician in charge of defense, a military brother in charge of transportation and support for the forces or the evacuation of the wounded, and the rest of those working in the Air Force or Armed Forces engage in that sincere effort, they have the same spirit as the Basij brother who leaves his life, home, and quiet livelihood to attack the heart of the enemies of the revolution, Islam, and Iran until he forces the enemy to withdraw. This is very valuable. This is the spirit of our Armed Forces and today we see its supreme manifestation in the Air Force, in its attacks and its defenses. This is something that is the source of great pride for the Air Force. All personnel in the various departments of the Armed Forces should learn this spirit from the dear brothers who are in the combat service, in combat support, and on the front lines of the battle. The Armed Forces should continue the transformation experienced so far.

As the Air Force commander said a few minutes ago, it is very valuable that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and the Air Force have performed so many services despite the fact that they have not received the necessary support [as heard]. In the past few years you have been self-motivated. In the past few years, you built what you needed and put it at the disposal of the revolution. The self-sufficient jihad of the Air Force is a brilliant example and a source of pride for this organization and for the Armed Forces as a whole, which mobilizes various capabilities in the service of the revolution.

The dear imam's recommendation is that you sincerely and with greater dedication follow the same path. Today our nation has declared its word to the world. The world has clearly understood what this nation wants to accomplish and what it is doing. Dominating powers do not want to see a country that does not tolerate domination by the dominating powers; that does not recognize superpowers as superpowers; that wants to stand on its own feet; that does not regard scientific supremacy as a reason for or proof of political supremacy; and for political, economic, and military domination to become a model to the world. This is a nation that does not allow its fate, its destiny, its future, its

policies, its way of life, or even its culture and beliefs to be dictated by others just because they possess technological supremacy. This is no reason. Is technological supremacy in a country and in a nation any reason for that country to bully other nations? We will follow that path too, the path of scientific progress, the path of flowering talent; but we are not prepared to give up our culture, our beliefs, our Islam, our humanity, our independence, and our national and Islamic identity and come under your domination. Today our nation has said this with all its force, and has proved it on the battlefield, as well as on the political and economic battlefronts. And you, brothers, have played an effective and major role in this.

Today our situation is like the situation of the Muslims in the early days in the battle of Ahzab. In that battle the prophet was under seige in the true sense of the word. That day all the atheistic forces were fighting against the Islam of Medina, against the Islam of the prophet, against the young and vibrant order and the sapling plant of Islam; they had laid seige to it. According to what has been handed down to us, the prophet told his apostles: This is your last defense. If you are victorious in this defense, others will later have to defend themselves against you and they will no longer have an ability to attack. Today our nation is also engaged in its last defense. With God's grace, we will be victorious in this defense; and later it will be the turn of the superpowers and other powers to defend themselves against the Islamic Revolution. On that day they shall understand the significance of the Islamic Revolution and the divine and Islamic strength of this nation. We are walking this path; and the Air Force and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic are following this course.

We have heavy responsibilities. The most important duty of the Armed Forces is to maintain their unity. A great recommendation I was told to convey to you is the preservation of your unity: unity between the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps and the Guards Corps with the Armed Forces, and the Armed Forces among themselves and the Guards Corps among themselves; and all of them with the Basij forces and security forces, the committees, the Gendarmerie, and the police — the sacred arms of the Islamic Revolution and the powerful clenched fists of this nation. You should stand together. You should assist one another. Selfishness should not interfere. Egotism should not tarnish the clear face of unity. So long as you stand together you will be a powerful barrier. If, God forbid, a crack appears in this barrier, defense would be very difficult — and this would be inexcusable.

Once again, I express my felicitations to you, dear personnel of the Air Force, on the occasion of this unforgettable day. On behalf of all of us I express my felicitations on the occasion of this blessed day to the presence of our dear imam, our beloved and illustrious leader, the kind father of this nation whose heart aches at our pains and becomes happy at our happiness, who teaches us reliance on God, who teaches us self-reliance; and I congratulate him on the occasion of these holy 10 days. I hope we will have many more years like today when we can be received by the imam, and that each year when we come here, God willing, the Air Force will have performed more brilliant deeds, will be prouder, and will take more firm steps. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Air Force Commander Speaks

LD081628 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Address by Air Force Commander Colonel Sattari to Air Force personnel on anniversary of Air Force personnel expressing loyalty to Ayatollah Khomeyni; delivered at the Hoseyniyeh Mosque in Jamaran on 8 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the great leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the exalted commander in chief of the Armed Forces, praise be to the pure souls of Islam's martyrs, particularly the martyrs of the imposed war. Praise and adoration to almighty and exalted God, for allowing us to be here at this holy place and congratulate and give felicitations on this happy occasion and renew our vows with the lofty imam and commander in chief, while expressing thanks that his holiness has granted me the command of the Air Force.

With permission, I will briefly comment on various issues. The Islamic Revolution of Iran, rooted in the school of monotheism, shone at the brow of Islamic history through its genuine nature — as did the movements by the prophets — thanks to the mighty hand of the lofty imam, and at a time when the United States was referred to as an invincible power in the world and was counted as a specter of exploitation of the oppressed and the meek. The glory of the heroic epic of 19 Bahman [8 February 1979] was bestowed upon the Air Force, making the personnel of the forces proud and self-respected in the presence of Almighty God and the Muslim and honorable nation of Iran. The history-making move by the committed personnel of the forces on 19 Bahman is a lesson for the armed forces of oppressed nations and acts as a model for ending command by oppressors in the armies of the world. Supercriminals who equipped the infidel regime in Iraq against the Islamic country of Iran and started the war in the region, have been increasingly tasting bitter defeat, day by day, despite their having established a conflagration in the Persian Gulf and having employed all their resources to support and assist the enemy. Today, after 7 years of unstinting assistance to the Ba'thist regime of Iraq they have reached the end.

The imposed war galvanized the combat flank of the Islamic Revolution and allowed the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, the Basij, and popular forces to defend their Islamic country in one uniform, shoulder to shoulder. They showed the unprecedented stability of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world and eventually proved, in effect, the policy of neither East nor West. They taught the world that for the Muslim nation of Iran exertion of the harshest of conditions has no meaning against the power of belief. The active presence by the ideological-political foundation and the clergy brothers, side by side with the personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has strengthened the resolve of the personnel. A large part of the victories won by the military personnel is due to the clergy brothers who have always been teachers and guides in intellectual and ideological matters for the military personnel.

The Air Force has undergone an unbelievable evolution in confrontation skills with the defeated enemy, having carefully analyzed and studied in a systematic manner weak points and

strengths of the enemy and having put together new methods during the past year. The Air Force has participated in battles against the enemy, attaining unthinkable results in the fields of offense and defense, support and transport by air missions. The direct and active participation by the Air Force in the proud Val-Fajr 8 operations proved that after years of war and despite economic and military (?embargoes) it could deal heavy blows to the enemy by relying on divine succor and efforts by the selfless personnel. In the Karbala'-5 and Karbala'-6 epic operations, the selflessness of sons of Islam reached its peak as the devoted high-fliers and proud men of the antiaircraft units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force dealt the heaviest losses and damage to the defeated enemy. Their stunning blows in the air and on the ground were like thorns in the eyes of the enemies of Islam. Our epic-making pilots, during operations thus far, have continued their devastating air attacks while providing effective support for the fighting combatants of Islam. The dear personnel of the antiaircraft units have used the clenched fists of the Islamic nation to pound the enemy aircraft, downing many and bringing sorrow to the leaders of the Ba'thist regime in Iraq.

Today, representatives of the forces are in your gracious presence to renew our allegiance and vows declaring the Air Force personnel's readiness to continue their mission. The forces will in the future employ the committed and devoted personnel to engage in all fields of technology, operations, repair, and maintenance, maximal restoration and refurbishment of offensive and defensive hardware and weaponry. The forces will take (?effective) steps to maximize self-sufficiency and, God willing, considerably increase combat capabilities. Let us hold our heads high and feel confident in the presence of the lofty imam and his nation.

In conclusion, once again wishing the imam longevity and fruitful years for the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, I declare the Air Force's readiness to steadfastly continue an undiminishing war against enemies of Islam and I hope that, thanks to the guidance and divine succor of the lofty iman, the Muslim nation of Iran may taste sweet victory.

9 Feb Ceremony Held Praising Air Force, Martyrs

LD091524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] This morning in an elaborate ceremony on the 9th day of the 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic Revolution, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council praised the martyrs, the missing-in-action, POW's, and the crippled of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their families.

According to a Central News Unit report, in this ceremony held on the Revolution Base, which was also attended by commanders of the Air and Naval forces, the head of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, and personnel and families of the martyrs of the Air Force, the president, after inspecting the ceremonial unit, praised the self-sacrifices of the martyrs, the missing, and the POW's of the Air Force and described the value and status of martyrs in Islam and the role of the Air Force in the victory and continuation of the Islamic Revolution. He said: Today, our pilots' morale is similar to that of the mobilized combatants since they are attacking the heart of the enemy, fully aware of the dangers and difficulties of their mission, just like the brave mobilized combatants, and they go to face martyrdom and create epics.

The president, emphasizing that Islam is the only real and liberating school of thought for people, praised the Armed Forces' martyrs, and stated: We remember and bless the blood of martyrs in all our successes and victories, and we must keep their memory and value alive. The Armed Forces have sacrificed many martyrs for the sake of the Muslim nation of Iran and the revolution, and the Armed Forces' personnel and the families of the Armed Forces' martyrs must be grateful and value the blood of the martyrs and continue in their path.

At the conclusion of this ceremony, the president delivered some presents to the families of Air Force martyrs.

Majlis Speaker on U.S.-USSR Fear of Islamic Revolution

LD101041 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here Monday that the mere mention of an Iranian victory in the Iraqi imposed war brings an increase in the U.S. and Soviet fleets in the Persian Gulf, which implies that they will not tolerate Iran's triumph.

Addressing a group of visitors including Ayatollah Montazeri's representatives to universities, university professors, and staff members, Speaker Rafsanjani said that they (the U.S. and the USSR) had realized that Iran had no design on either Basra, Baghdad, or Tigris. What they were scared of, he said, was the threat to the rule of persons such as Husni Mubarak, King Husayn, and other lackeys of imperialism, Rafsanjani said.

Events of the past seven years beg an answer to the question why the world arrogance has been so sensitive towards the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the Majlis speaker said. Naturally, he added, every revolution has opponents since it runs contrary to interests of a group of others. The Islamic Revolution was no exception, he said. Rafsanjani stressed that if this revolution had occured in an African country or elsewhere in the Third World, it would have been opposed by the supporters of either of the two superpowers. But, he said, in Iran the revolution was opposed by a triangle of suppporters of the East, the West, and reactionaries of the region. What the opponents of the revolution feared for was that the revolution was contagious and would spread elsewhere, the Majlis speaker said.

On the vicious propaganda of international imperialism against the Islamic Revolution, Speaker Rafsanjani said that they labled Iran 'fundamentalist' and allegedly claimed that women were denied their rights in Iran. "Don't ladies go to universities, hold key posts in artistic, literary, medical, and various other fields?" Speaker Rafsanjani asked.

In fact, he added, it was because of this very danger threatening interests of imperialism and those of reactionary states that they took such a stand. Third World countries such as Kuwait, Jordan, and Morocco, not imperialist, but under the domination of

imperialism, since their interests are intermignled with those of imperialism they alsc have to take a similar stance, Rafsanjani said.

He added that many revolutions due to the pressures imposed on them gradually turned away from their principles and, therefore, created a gap between themselves and their aspirations. But, he stressed, this did not happen in Iran, adding that enemies of the Islamic Revolution today are the same [as] at its outset.

Referring to the many-fold plots of the enemies of the revolution, Rafsanjani said that they tried to mar the revolution by distorting realities including the issue of prisons and prisoners in Iran. But, he asked, why do a great number of prisoners repent, and even persons such as Roger Cooper (British spy), leaders of the outlawed Tudeh Party, Monafeqin and others announce readiness to be interviewed and apologise to the people.

He praised strong resistance of the people vis-a-vis plots of international arrogance and said that no attempt could have the least effect on the resolute determination of the Iranian people and on their loyalty to the revolution.

If the Islamic Revolution was allegedly rejected by the world public opinion, why then is international arrogance scared of Iran's victory over Iraq? Why are they afraid of Iran's presence in Africa? Iran was far from Egypt and had not even a single office there, why should they fear Iran? What they are scared of is the substance of the Islamic Revolution, Rafsanjani stressed.

In conclusion he called for vast participation of people in [the] Feb 11 march, to mark the eighth anniversary of the victory of the revolution.

Mediation Efforts Between U.S., Tehran Fruitless

LD081241 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] The Cabinet met this morning to discuss domestic and foreign topics. Debate on the bill on export and import codes continued and 19 articles on this were approved. According to our correspondent at the meeting, the employment of 19,341 graduates from educational centers and contract applicants for educational posts, and allocation of 321 million rials to complete 7 construction projects in Najafabad, Tabriz, Shiraz, Do Gonbadan, and Behbahan were approved. According to the same report, a check for 1 million rials, donated by Mellat Bank employees to flood victims was given to the prime minister.

Noting the good public showing at the 22 Bahman march [the anniversary of the revolution, 11 February] the prime minister said: Our enemies hope to see us falter at this auspicious ceremony every year, so that they may use it as proof of the public's disheartened state as compared with their own divine movement. Despite increased pressure on our people by global arrogance our people have shown more vigorously each year their deep attachment to the Islamic Revolution. The prime minister reaffirmed: This year, the 22 Bahman march will be held in a much more sensitive situation than in the past, since this year, more than ever, we are close to the goals of the Islamic Revolution in all fields. The Bahman march this year is not being held just to declare strength of the revolution's pillars. It is to announce the nation's steadfastness and the defeat of the Ba'thist enemy, as well as the victory of the blood of the Mianeh girl pupils [reference to 68 students killed in Iraqi air raid on that town] over the spiteful bombs of the superpowers against the Iranian nation's divine movement.

Noting the widespread despatch of forces for the Imam Mahdi Corps — may Allah hasten his advent — the prime minister said: Although it has been less than 2 months since the despatches for the 100,000-member Muhammad Corps — peace be upon Him and His scion — the people's enthusiasm for despatching the Imam Mahdi Corps — may Allah hasten his advent — is noticeable. Our youths are there today to defeat the enemy and to open a path to security and tranquillity for their dear ones in the cities.

Furthermore, the prime minister considered as fruitless efforts to mediate between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as proposed by a number of regional political figures, saying: This issue has been raised by the arch-satan and has nothing to do with the realities of our relations with the criminal United States. The prime minister stressed: Today the United States is behind every crime committed against the Islamic Revolution and our country, or it supports those crimes.

Noting the important message by the imam of the nation on the occasion of the 10-Day Dawn, the prime minister said: The message spells out very clearly for the system and thus for the Islamic Republic Government, that we will resist aggressors to the last house, to the last person, and to the last drop of blood. We will stand so long as one brick still rests on another. He added: The recent message by the imam of the nation was one of exporting the revolution, and our foreign policy has been relying on and will continue to rely on this genuine principle. The prime minister said: Today our goal, on the surface, may be the eradication of aggression and the punishment of the criminal regime of Iraq; but in principle and fundamentally, we want to deal a blow to the insistent and nonsensical talk by the superpowers that the war should have no winner.

Partial Amnesty Announced for Revolution Anniversary

LD091135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Excerpts] On the eve of 11 February, the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, a considerable number of various types of prisoners will be released. Bojnurdi, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council as well as a member of the imam's amnesty board, announcing the news, added that a circular to this effect has already been communicated to all revolution public courts, the judicial organization, the Armed Forces, and all other offices of public prosecutors. [passage omitted]

Bojnurdi then said: Counterrevolutionary groups, influencial members of the misguided sect, and spies will also be covered by the amnesty regulations, providing their repentance before the public prosecutor, the religious judge, and the Ministry of Information have been ascertained.

He then called on all public and revolution offices of public prosecutors, judicial organizations, and the Armed Forces to implement the amnesty regulations speedily and report the outcome to the imam's amnesty board.

Sudanese Minister Cited on Egyptian POWs Release

NC081059 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 8 (AFP) — Iran has agreed to the gradual release of 12,000 Egyptians it captured while they were fighting for Iraq in the Gulf war, according to Foreign Minister Sharif al-Hindi of Sudan, who negotiated the release.

The Sudanese official, quoted in the Abu Dhabi newspaper *Al-Ittihad*, said a first group of Egyptian prisoners of war would be freed before the end of the month as a result of his mediation efforts between Cairo and Tehran. The newspaper said the first batch of prisoners would number about 5,000 men, and that 7,000 others would be released later. Baghdad has said that about 20,000 Egyptian volunteers were fighting in the war against Iran.

In Cairo, newspapers Sunday quoted Egyptian Defence Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah as saying that "not a single" Egyptian soldier was fighting for the Iraqis.

'Imminent Release' Denied

LD091443 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically denied on Monday reports published by foreign press on the imminent release of Egyptian POWs, saying that in fact no Egyptian POWs are in Iran.

The WIH spokesman said that there are only 38 Egyptian nationals under arrest, 16 of whom are fishermen arrested on charges of espionage. The remaining 22 Egyptians are mercenaries, hired by Iraq to fight Iranian forces at the warfronts, he added.

At present, the spokesman said, Iranian officials are probing the case of the Egyptian fishermen. "If it so happens that the fishermen are innocent of the charges they will be released and handed over only to Egyptian Muslim and revolutionary forces," noted the spokesman. "In the event the 16 fishermen are released, they will be handed over to Egyptian Muslim and revolutionary groups but not to the Cairo government because the Islamic Republic does not recognize it, "he noted

The spokesman reiterated that Iran will in no way release the remaining 22 Egyptian mercenaries. He noted that treatment of mercenaries at the time of war is quite clear.

Receipt of DRA Protest on Interference Denied

LD091534 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official refuted here Monday recent claims that Kabul regime had submitted a letter to Iran's Interior Ministry protesting Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. The official said that no protest note has been handed to the Interior Ministry, and strongly denied that the Islamic Republic of Iran has interfered in internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Following recent propaganda of the Kabul regime that the Islamic Republic was barring Afghan refugees from returning home, the official denied the claims terming them a "fabrication". Such propaganda are aimed at overshadowing struggle of the Afghan mujahidin against Soviet forces and the regime of Najibullah in this Muslim country, said the official, noting "Iran does not oppose the return home of Afghan refugees if they themselves desire to do so."

IRNA Questions Iraqi Minister's Visit to France

LD091952 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Paris, Feb 9, IRNA — France's Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministries refuse to give any information concerning the visit of Iraqi Minister of State for Military Affairs Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal to that country. The Iraqi general arrived here last Thursday (Feb 5) at the head of a delegation aboard a private plane.

French Defence Ministry authorities described the Iraqi official's visit as "secret" and even said that they did not know how long Shanshal would stay here.

Informed political sources in Paris said that the objective of the Iraqi minister's "surprise" visit to France, which is taking place after the Iraqi Army suffered continuous defeats in Karbala' 5 and 6 operations, is to negotiate with French officials to speed up new arms deliveries to Baghdad.

In a radio program on Sunday night, French Premier Jacques Chirac refused to answer questions on Paris-Baghdad relations and the issue of French hostages in Lebanon. French mass media have also not mentioned the purpose of Shanshal's visit.

Opposition 'Open Letter' Criticizes Leaders, War

PM091612 Paris LE MONDE in French 8-9 Feb 87 p 3

["J.G." report: "Mr Bazargan Accuses Leaders of Concealing Iranian Losses in War With Iraq"]

[Text] In an open letter to Majlis Speaker Hojjat-ol Eslam Rafsanjani on 25 January, Mehdi Bazargan, who was head of the provisional government formed by Imam Khomeyni immediately after the revolution, and his friends from the Iranian Liberation Movement — the only legal opposition in Tehran — criticize in extremely strong terms the way in which the war is being conducted, particularly the lack of any adequate protection against Iraqi Air Force raids.

Mr Bazargan and his friends accuse the Iranian leaders of trying to cover up the Iranian losses and the "fatal blows dealt by the savage enemy" against Iran's cities. "You say nothing about this," Mr Bazargan writes, "but the people can see with their own eyes the constant procession of martyrs' corpses and the hospitals overflowing with the wounded and the dying.... They can see successive Iranian cities being reduced to ruins and silent cemeteries."

The open letter, several thousand copies of which were distributed in Tehran when the Karbala' 5 offensive was in full swing, also attacks the reprisals taken against Iraqi cities. "There is reason to wonder," the document states, "whether Tehran would not have done better to procure surface-to-air missiles to shoot down enemy planes rather than surface-to-surface missiles to strike Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, whose innocent inhabitants are not being treated in an Islamic and humanitarian way."

Mr Bazargan launches a personal attack on Hojjat-ol Eslam Rafsanjani, who is also the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council. "You have isolated Iran from the rest of the world with your clumsy and irresponsible statements," he writes.... "Who gave you the right to dispose of the lives of the existing generations and of the country's wealth to secure, as you say, the punishment of one man, even if that man is the greatest criminal of all time? Is his head worth the lives of hundreds of thousands and perhaps even millions of people killed and the destruction of entire cities? What shepherd would lead his whole flock to certain death to avenge one of his lambs killed by wolves? For 7 years now you have been chasing the illusion of victory in the burning desert of mirages.... Meanwhile your watchword 'War, war until victory is won' is turning into 'War, war until there is total destruction.' Who has given you a mandate to lead the people to total destruction on the pretext of securing Saddam Husayn's downfall, when, if the latter vanished he would merely be replaced by another dictator or by someone pro-U.S. Government — an eventuality which you have said you would accept?"

The open letter also accuses the Islamic leaders of using the war to stay in power. "You have gagged the country and the people; you have made the war last an inordinately long time to enable you to consolidate your teetering power at home. This is why you cannot change your foreign policy. Why do you not put forward a reasonable plan for ending the war?" Mr Bazargan asks, stating that Mr Rafsanjani, who makes the major decisions, must fully shoulder his responsibility in this deadlock.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, the open letter expresses the view that Iran ought to have made its voice heard at the recent Islamic summit rather than boycotting it. "Israel," it adds, "gains most from this war. It is fanning the flames and its objective is the total destruction of the Iraqi and Iranian military forces to rid itself of the two armed forces simultaneously. In these circumstances, do you intend to continue this war to the last building and the last man in Iran and Iraq? God help us," Mr Bazargan's letter concludes.

UN 'Legal Stand' on Iraqi Aggression Urged

LD092020 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA — The UN Security Council should adopt a legal and unequivocal stand on the Iraqi aggression on Iran in a bid to convince the Islamic Republic to accept the council's efforts to end the Iraqi-imposed war, said Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammd-Javad Larijani here Monday. The deputy foreign minister said that the Security Council should probe the issue of aggression within the framework of international law, on the basis of which any aggression is considered a "threat to world peace and security."

Larijani, who was speaking to reporters on the outcome of his recently-concluded visits to Japan and China, said that the Security Council could probe the war crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime and its mistreatment of Iranian POWs in Iraq. It is surprising that certain countries, which claim to be engaged in humanitarian activities, keep silent on the death and maiming of hundreds of victims of savage Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities but launch all manner of propaganda on the issue of some hostages in Lebanon. "Such silence on Iraqi atrocities against Iranian civilians can in no way be justified by international law," he noted. The deputy minister stressed that the Iraqi regime is trying to spread the war to other parts of the region because Baghdad, which is now completely helpless, wants to destroy both itself and others.

In the opinion of the Islamic Republic the future of the region should be drawn up in a way so that all regional countries can live in peace without being afraid of aggression by a neighboring country, he said. "The territorial integrity and sovereignty of all big as well as small countries in the region should be respected, an issue on which the Islamic Republic attaches great importance," said Larijani. He also said he told to Japanese officials allegations that an Iranian victory over Iraq would jeopardize the stability of the region were quite baseless because Iran wants to root out the issue of aggression in the region forever, an issue which would consolidate regional stability and security.

On his visit to the People's Republic of China, Larijani said that Chinese officials had expressed satisfaction over the Islamic Republic's efforts to secure peace, tranquility, and stability in the region. Larijani further added that he had assured Chinese officials that the Islamic Republic favors peace, tranquility, and stability in the region and wants to uproot the cause of aggression, and that security will not return without taking Iran into consideration.

Joint Operations With Iraqi Kurds Reported

LD091424 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA — Concentration site of Iraqi military and security troops as well as headquarters of the Ba'th Party in Zaviteh and Qase Districts of Dahuk Province were destroyed during a string of joint operations by Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party and Iranian forces of Ramadan headquarters last week.

During the attack KDP combatants destroyed 20 light and heavy vehicles of the enemy killing a considerable number of Ba'thist soldiers. An Iraqi soldier was also taken captive.

Communiques Update Recent Combat Operations

No 2,741

LD081648 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters pounded Iraqi positions in Karbala'-5 operational region as well as military and economic centers of Iraq's city of 'Ali al-Gharbi at 06:00 and 08:50 hours GMT Sunday. All planes returned to bases safely after inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy, said a military communique here Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique No 2,741 said that Iraqi eco-military sites in Chuwartah, Halabjah, and Khurmal sustained damage when they came under long-range artillery fire of the Muslim combatants Saturday.

Iranian forces despatched patrols and established observation posts, as well as checked movement of Iraqi troops in northwestern fronts, where the enemy sustained casualties and losses when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire Saturday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in western fronts, being somewhat more intense in Naft-e Shahr and Sumar operational regions where heavy artillery fire of the Iranian combatants inflicted considerable casualties and losses on enemy positions and motorized columns. The enemy also sustained substantial losses when its economic-military and industrial targets in border cities were shelled by Iranian artillery.

In southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces consolidated their positions, destroying several Iraqi group bunkers and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers. Muslim combatants also continued shelling Iraqi eco-military centers in Basra and 'Ali al-Gharbi Saturday.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic halted activities of Iraqi armoured and engineering units, destroying a watch post and several group bunkers and killing or wounding a group of Ba'thist soldiers, said the communique.

No 2,742

LD091716 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA — Most Iraqi observation posts east of Basra as well as enemy military sites and defence positions along Arvand River banks, and on the Al-Bakr and Al-Amaya platforms came under Iranian long-range artillery fire Sunday sustaining irreparable casualties and losses, said Joint Staff Communique No 2,742 here Monday.

The communique said that the Iranian Navy inspected 16 foreign tankers and cargo ships in Hormuz Strait last Saturday, but allowed them to continue voyage since no Iraqi-bound cargo were found on board.

Iranian Muslim forces despatched several patrol units across the fronts Sunday, who destroyed several Iraqi gun emplacements and military vehicles and killed a number of enemy soldiers.

Exchange of artillery fire was more intense in Hajj 'Umran, Qasr-e Shirin, Talaiyeh, Zeyd, and Sharhani Sunday, the communique said. Several Iraqi tanks were also damaged when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire in a southern front.

In Mehran and Helaleh, Muslim combatants' timely artillery fire checked movement of enemy motorized units.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic silenced Iraqi artillery fire, setting afire several enemy gun emplacements, and killing a group of Ba'thist troops, the communique said.